

Testimony of

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Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

This is my sixth year as an educator in Connecticut. I love the community that I am a part of and find meaning in the work I do each day. That being said, as my peers in other fields find their jobs becoming easier to perform, I and many other teachers are experiencing the opposite. Each year since I started in 2017 my job has gotten progressively more difficult. Teachers are fleeing the profession in droves and the workload they previously managed is falling on the already overworked staff who still remain. I have seriously considered leaving as well and finding employment elsewhere. I hesitate because I care for our kids and the future of our beautiful state but I fear that at some point when I take a step back and balance my needs versus the needs of the greater community I may be forced to make a hard decision. Please - do what you can to ensure that our public education system, the number one tool we have of addressing inequality, climate change, and an eroding democracy, is preserved.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

